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| OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. | | | EXAMINER | |
| 1940 DUKE STREET | | | NGUYEN, LUONG TRUNG | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/796,022 | KITAJIMA, TATSUTOSHI |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | LUONG T. NGUYEN | 2622 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 28 July 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/28/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-10 are objected to because of the following informalities:
Claim 1 (line 11), "the camera" should be changed to --the digital camera--.
Claim 4 (line 3), "the exposure" should be changed to --an exposure--.
Claim 6 (line 5), claim 7 (line 5), claim 8 (line 5), claim 9 (line 5), claim 10 (line 5), "the exposure time" should be changed to --an exposure time--.
Claims 2 -10 are objected as being dependent on claim 1.
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ejima (US 7,176,962).

Regarding claim 1, Ejima discloses a digital camera (digital camera 1, figures 1-3) having an image forming device to image a subject by a setup exposure condition and a digital image processing device to convert imaging data from the image forming device into a digital image, the digital camera comprising:

a device to set up a plurality of the exposure conditions (capturing images 1, 2 at different shutter speeds (exposure conditions) at step S405, S409, figure 11, column 15, line 47 – column 16, line 45),

a device to obtain a plurality of imaging data imaged in accordance with the plurality of exposure conditions set by the plurality exposure conditions setup device (capturing images 1, 2 at different shutter speeds (exposure conditions) at step S405, S409, figure 11, column 15, line 47 – column 16, line 45), and

a device to compare a sharpness based on the plurality of imaging data obtained by the plurality of imaging data obtaining device (compare the spatial frequency components, column 16, lines 20-33; column 22, lines 17 – 30),

wherein a shake of the camera or a blur of the subject is determined corresponding to the comparison result of the sharpness comparison device (an image blur is judged by comparing the spatial frequency components in the first image data and the second image data, column 16, lines 20-33; column 21 - column 22, line 30).

Regarding claim 6, Ejima discloses the digital camera further comprising:

a device to display an image processed by the digital image processing device (LCD 8, figure 2-3, column 5, lines 15-20; column 6, lines 1-5),

wherein a display time to the display device is made constant regardless of the exposure time in the image forming device (since the LCD 8 displays image data reproduced from memory card 25, the display time of image data on LCD 8 is not effected by exposure time in CCD 20, figure 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima (US 7,176,962) in view of Satoh et al. (US 5,708,863).

Regarding claim 2, Ejima fails to specifically discloses a device to output an exposure time for preventing a handshake based on a focal length of a photographic lens in the image forming device, wherein an existence of the camera shake is determined based on the handshake preventing exposure time output by the handshake preventing exposure time output device. However, Satoh et al. teaches an image blur prevention device for a camera, which teaches the shake determining section 4 determines the current image blur state on the image plane on the

basis of photographing focal length (figure 1, column 4, lines 5-44). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Ejima by the teaching of Satoh et al. in order to provide an image blur prevention device for a camera, which reduces the influence of camera shakes on photographing operation and exhibits good operability without posing problems when a release time lag occurs (column 1, lines 63-67).

Regarding claim 7, Ejima discloses the digital camera further comprising:

a device to display an image processed by the digital image processing device (LCD 8, figure 2-3, column 5, lines 15-20; column 6, lines 1-5),
wherein a display time to the display device is made constant regardless of the exposure time in the image forming device (since the LCD 8 displays image data reproduced from memory card 25, the display time of image data on LCD 8 is not effected by exposure time in CCD 20, figure 3).

7. Claims 3, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima (US 7,176,962) in view of Satoh et al. (US 5,708,863) further in view of Ohishi et al. (US 5,713,049).

Regarding claim 3, Ejima and Satoh et al. fail to specifically disclose a device to warn of the camera shake when the camera shake is existed. However, Ohishi et al. teaches LCD 3 for displaying information such as camera-shake amount (figure 1, column 4, lines 40-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Ejima and Satoh et al. by the teaching of Ohishi et al. in order to provide a camera-shake display device for a camera. This camera-shake display device informs various information on the camera-shake to a user of a camera (column 1, lines 34-35).

Regarding claim 8, Ejima discloses the digital camera further comprising:

a device to display an image processed by the digital image processing device (LCD 8, figure 2-3, column 5, lines 15-20; column 6, lines 1-5),
wherein a display time to the display device is made constant regardless of the exposure time in the image forming device (since the LCD 8 displays image data reproduced from memory card 25, the display time of image data on LCD 8 is not effected by exposure time in CCD 20, figure 3).

8. Claims 4, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima (US 7,176,962) in view of Satoh et al. (US 5,708,863) further in view of Yoshihara et al. (US 5,172,233).

Regarding claim 4, Ejima discloses when the exposure is not enough, a strobe is flashed (figure 3, column 6, line 65 – column 7, line 3).

Ejima and Satoh et al. fail to specifically wherein when the camera shake is existed, a predetermined exposure time while functioning a still image recording is shortened. However,

Yoshihara et al. discloses a still electronic camera, in which in order to prevent blurring of photograph due to camera shaking, the exposure time is shortened to such a degree that camera shaking is regarded as negligible (column 1, lines 23 – 28). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Ejima and Satoh et al. by the teaching of Yoshihara et al. in order to obtain a clear photograph with high resolution (column 1, lines 23-25).

Regarding claim 9, Ejima discloses the digital camera further comprising:

a device to display an image processed by the digital image processing device (LCD 8, figure 2-3, column 5, lines 15-20; column 6, lines 1-5),

wherein a display time to the display device is made constant regardless of the exposure time in the image forming device (since the LCD 8 displays image data reproduced from memory card 25, the display time of image data on LCD 8 is not effected by exposure time in CCD 20, figure 3).

9. Claims 5, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejima (US 7,176,962) in view of Satoh et al. (US 5,708,863) further in view of Imada (US 2004/0090532).

Regarding claim 5, Ejima and Satoh et al. fail to specifically wherein when the subject blur is existed, a sensitivity for increasing the output of the imaging data while functioning the still image recording is increased. However, Imada teaches that when it is desired to reduce affects from image blur by increasing the shutter speed, the image-taking sensitivity is set to be

higher in accordance with the shutter speed increase (page 1, [005], [0012]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device in Ejima and Satoh et al. by the teaching of Imada in order to reduce the affects from image blur (page 1, [005]).

Regarding claim 10, Ejima discloses the digital camera further comprising:

a device to display an image processed by the digital image processing device (LCD 8, figure 2-3, column 5, lines 15-20; column 6, lines 1-5),
wherein a display time to the display device is made constant regardless of the exposure time in the image forming device (since the LCD 8 displays image data reproduced from memory card 25, the display time of image data on LCD 8 is not effected by exposure time in CCD 20, figure 3).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Goto et al. (US 5,414,486).

Kubo (US 7,030,911).

Art Unit: 2622

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID L. OMETZ can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN
10/12/07

Luongtien Nguyen

LUONG T. NGUYEN
PATENT EXAMINER